

**ADOPTED**

APR 18 1990

*Anthony King*  
Secretary of the Senate

(Santiesteban)  
By: *Santiesteban*

S.R. No. 44

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Don Juan de Onate, son of a wealthy miner in Zacatecas, Mexico, in January, 1598, nearly a quarter of a century before the Mayflower sailed from England to the New World, embarked on a momentous journey leading the first major colonization effort into what is now the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Some 400 brave and courageous men--130 of whom brought their families--and some clergy of the Franciscan order and all of their possessions were packed into 83 ox-drawn, wooden-wheeled wagons and carts and, along with 7,000 to 8,000 horses, oxen, sheep, goats, and cattle, formed a four-mile-long procession trekking through the desert; and

WHEREAS, These colonists began their journey from Santa Barbara, Mexico, and carved a new and shorter trail along what now forms Mexico Highway 45 from Chihuahua City north to El Paso, where previous explorers had followed the Rio Conchos to its junction with the Rio Grande, thence followed the Rio Grande toward present-day El Paso; and

WHEREAS, After plodding through the torturous desert for more than four months, often forced to eat roots and berries and drink water from the occasional water holes or from cactus and other plants, these weary and ragged pathfinders arrived at the banks of the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo in Mexico) on April 20, 1598; and

WHEREAS, For 10 days they swam in the deep, cool waters of the Rio Grande, rested in the shade of the giant cottonwoods,

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hunted, fished, and ate as they had not eaten in months; and

WHEREAS, Then, on April 30, Don Juan de Onate ordered everyone to put on his best clothes and to gather for a feast of thanksgiving, and he memorialized the occasion with a proclamation (La Toma) that claimed the land for the King of Spain, and a play, the first in America, was created and presented, and everyone ate and drank and gave thanks for the welcome bounty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 71st Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby recognize and publicly proclaim that Texas and a point in what is now San Elizario on the outskirts of the City of El Paso are the site of the first Thanksgiving celebration held by colonists in America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts requesting that it pass a resolution recognizing that Texas did indeed celebrate the first Thanksgiving.

IP

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on April 18, 1990.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

By: Santiesteban

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